



education

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

TO : NEWS EDITORS

FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE : 07 JANUARY 2013

MEDIA ADVISORY

SUBJECT : OPTIMISTIC OF A GOOD START

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is optimistic that the re-opening of schools will be without major hassles on Wednesday 09 January 2013.

Public Representatives and officials have been deployed to visit various schools throughout the Province from Wednesday to Friday to welcome educators, learners and non-teaching staff and to ensure that teaching and learning takes place on the first day of schools re-opening.

Admission of learners was done in 2012 and only critical cases which were not finalised last year will be handled this week.

The Department has urged all principals to work collaboratively with parents in the best interest of learners.

School Nutrition will be provided to deserving learners from the first day and currently there are **835,444** learners in **1 600** schools that are benefiting from this programme.

Scholar transport is expected to run in all districts on the same day so that there is no learner that can be denied access to school. This programme is currently benefiting about **65 000** learners.

Stationery was distributed to all schools during December 2012. Textbooks for the implementation of CAPS for grade 4, 5, 6 and 11 were despatched to all schools in December 2012.

Principals are directed to ensure that these are distributed to learners on the first day of school re-opening so that effective teaching and learning can commence without delay.

The Department will in the coming ten days take stock of the actual numbers of learners and the needs of individual schools. After compiling the tenth day statistics, a process to ensure that where there is a need for additional material will commence.

This may be necessitated by the increase in the number of learners admitted in certain schools.

Mobile classrooms will be provided to schools that experience shortages of classrooms as an interim measure to alleviate adverse overcrowding.

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule welcomes the teachers, learners and non-teaching staff back to the 2013 school year.

"Our view is that you all had a well deserved break and we are looking forward to working with you to improve the delivery of education in the province. My wish is that every second, minute and hour must be used to empower our children academically so that their performance can improve at the end of the day.

I wish all our educators a healthy and prosperous new school year", she said.

Appointments of temporary teachers were finalised in 2012 and the Department will also look at the tenth day statistics to verify the need for additional teachers in schools.

MEC Visits to Schools

The MEC will on 09 January 2013 visit **Masilela Secondary School** in Bushbuckridge Municipality at 7H00.

This is the most improved school following the 2012 grade 12 results. This school moved from **30.9%** in 2011 to **95.2%** in 2012. It had **84** candidates and **80** of them passed.

After the visit to the school, the MEC will convene a meeting with students who are government bursary holders who reside within the Ehlanzeni District Municipality to discuss the challenges they face all in their respective institutions.

This meeting will be at Rob Ferreira Secondary School in White River and it will start at 11H00.

On 10 January 2013 at 7H00, MEC Mhaule will visit KwaNdebele Science School at Nkangala District in Siyabuswa Village.

This school has improved its grade 12 results by **24%** from **73%** in 2011 to **97%** in 2012. About three learners from this school obtained 100% in Physical Science.

From there, the MEC will meet the bursary holders from Nkangala District at 11H00 at the Siyabuswa Campus.

The media is invited

Information on transport and accommodation is obtainable from Mr Gerald Sambo who can be contacted at (013) 766 5005 or 083 693 2989 or g.sambo@education.mpu.gov.za

End

Issued by the Communication Directorate
For inquiries contact Mr Jasper Zwane at j.zwane@education.mpu.gov.za or 083 743 1804.